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New Titles for Children and Young People

Adrian, Mary. The tugboat mystery; illus. by William Moyers. Houghton, 1952. 123p. \$2.

Tom Owens was proud of his uncle, Steve, and the tugboat, Bessie, on which Steve served as first mate. When a mystery arose that threatened to ruin Steve's chance for promotion to captain, Tom set about to solve it. His method of doing so is not particularly commendable since he has to deliberately disobey orders (even to the point of breaking a law) and pry into places where he has no business being. A contrived story with improbable and unrealistic situations. Not recommended.

Aistrop, J. Bentley. Fun at the zoo. Roy, 1951. 190p. \$2.75.

In the somewhat breathless, rambling style of Every child's book of animal wonders the author describes the animals in an imaginary zoo called the Home From Home Zoo. The information about many of the animals is too sketchy to be of real value as identification. The book is filled with grammatical errors and awkward constructions that often obscure the meaning and make reading difficult. Not recommended.

Anderson, Clarence William. Horse show. Harper, 1951. 82p. \$2.50. All ages.

In eighty-three humorous drawings with satiric captions, Anderson has done a take-off on horse shows - the judges, participants, and spectators. The humor is somewhat sophisticated but the book should appeal to horse fans who do not take themselves too seriously.

Andrews, Roy Chapman. Nature's ways; how nature takes care of its own; illus. by Andre Durenceau and others. Crown, 1951. 206p. \$3.75.

A conglomeration of information about plants and animals of all kinds, each one chosen because of some peculiarity in the manner in which it obtains food or protects itself. The material is well indexed but there is no logic to the arrangement within the text which makes reading the book straight through a bewildering process. The writing is dull and the author's insistence on the use of "character" when he means "characteristic" becomes confusing. The same information is obtainable in other books and in a more satisfactory form. Not recommended.

Angelo, Valenti. The marble fountain; written and illus. by Valenti Angelo. Viking, 1951. 223p. \$2.50. Gr. 6-8. (D21;D99;D40a;D84).

A tender story of two orphan children in post-war Italy and their part in the rehabilitation of their village. Andrea is the older and more practical of the two, but it is Piccolo with his lively imagination who keeps life from being dull. The characters are all well-drawn and likable and the author has given a vivid picture of a village's readjustment after a war.

Austin, Margot. Growl bear; written and illus. by Margot Austin. Dutton, 1951. 43p. \$1.50.

Simple story that follows a trite and well-worn pattern: the little bear is shunned by other animals until they realize that the reason why he growls when he meets them is because he is a very young bear who has not yet learned to talk. Not recommended.

Ayd, Joseph D. Tomorrow's memories. Dodd, 1951. 247p. \$2.50.

Ruth Sterner, a senior in a Catholic girls' high school, has the usual teen-age interests in dates and dances and occasionally stops to wonder what she will do after graduation. Her final decision is to become a nun and the book ends with the activities of the week before she enters the convent. The subject is one that could have been of interest and use for both Catholic and non-Catholic readers had the story been better written. As it is the characters are wooden and the conversations, which attempt to reproduce the slang and

jargon of young people, are completely unrealistic. Not recommended.

Balch, Glenn. Winter horse. Crowell, 1951. 177p. \$2.50.

Another story of Tack Ranch and Ben and Dixie Darby's efforts to save the life of the wild stallion, King. This time King's life is threatened by the severe winter blizzards and the children and Gaucho make a long and hazardous trip through the Twin Buttes country to save the wild horses. Mediocre writing, stilted dialog, and references to actions in previous books offset any value the book might have had because of its unusual setting. Not recommended.

Barnum, Jay Hyde. The new fire engine; story and pictures by Jay Hyde Barnum. Morrow, 1952. 48p. \$2.

Slight story of the efforts of a volunteer fire company to learn how to operate their new fire engine successfully. After the engine has failed three times the firemen decide that they had better learn to coordinate their efforts to be sure the equipment is kept in perfect condition. After that they have no difficulties. The improbability of any fire company's failing to learn the proper use of equipment from the very beginning and the unnecessary personification of the fire engine spoil what would otherwise have been a good book for beginning readers. Not recommended.

Beim, Jerrold. Country garage; pictures by Louis Darling. Morrow, 1952. 48p. \$2. Gr.2-4.

Another easy reading book for second grade readers that has a subject sure to please many of them. Seth is a fortunate young boy whose uncles allow him to help them around their garage and even to help service cars when they are called away on emergency jobs. Seth looks old enough in the pictures, and the subject is interesting enough, that the book could be used for remedial reading as high as the sixth grade.

Bishop, Curtis. Saturday heroes. Steck, 1951. 217p. \$2.

Routine story of college football in which the coach does all the wrong things for four years but comes through with a winning team in time to carry off the Rose Bowl classic and earn a better job for himself. Characters and incidents are unrealistic and improbable, and the book is further weakened by the use of incorrect grammar. Not recommended.

Bonner, Mary Graham. The base-stealer; illus. by Bob Meyers. Knopf, 1951. 173p. \$2.50. Gr.4-6. (D42;D59).

When eleven-year-old Harry East first came to New York City to live he was somewhat bewildered by the crowds and the complexity of city life and looked forward to the summer when he could return to the West to visit a former classmate. The visit did not materialize but Harry's summer was not spoiled after he learned about P.A.L. (Police Athletic League) and had an opportunity to become a member of one of the League's baseball teams. Although not outstanding writing the book is good for its

descriptions of baseball games, the account of P.A.L. and how it works, and as intergroup material. The text does not identify any of the boys as to race or nationality although the illustrations show one of the major characters to be a Negro boy.

Borden, Charles A. He sailed with Captain Cook; illus. by Ralph Ray. Crowell, 1952. 248p. \$2.75. Gr.6-8.

Tobias Whitechapel loved the sea and in spite of his small size proved himself a thoroughly able seaman. He was pleased when the chance came to join the crew of the Endeavour and sail with Captain James Cook on his first tour of discovery in the South Pacific. The trip provided all that anyone could ask in excitement, adventure, and the satisfaction that comes from making new discoveries. A well-written story with accurate information and all the suspense and action of a good adventure story.

Bradbury, Bianca. One kitten too many; by Bianca Bradbury and Marie C. Nichols. Houghton, 1952. 32p. \$1.50. Gr.2-4.

Slight but pleasant story of Tabitha, a kitten whose good nature and generosity almost ruin her life when Whiskers, a kitten with no manners and a greedy disposition, moves in and almost takes possession. Tabitha finally rebels and teaches Whiskers how to share. The pictures of the cats are enjoyable but the text is slightly marred by Whiskers' ability to figure out how to open a refrigerator - a process that some cats could master but no kitten would figure out the first time it saw a refrigerator.

Brown, Eleanor Frances. Wendy wanted a pony; illus. by Pers Crowell. Messner, 1951. 144p. \$2.75. Gr.4-6.

A routine horse story involving a small girl who longs for a horse but is unable to have one because of family troubles - mostly financial. The family moves from Chicago to Oregon where their problems are finally settled, Wendy learns a lesson in unselfishness, and the pony she wanted becomes a reality.

Bryan, Dorothy. Just Tammie!; by Dorothy and Marguerite Bryan. Dodd, 1951. 61p. \$2. Gr.1-2.

Combines two stories: There was Tammie and Tammie and that puppy which were originally published as separates in 1945, 1946. Tammie is a small black Scottie and the stories of his adventures make slight but pleasant reading. Suitable for beginning readers.

Coombs, Charles I. Young readers detective stories; illus. by Charles H. Geer. Lantern Press, 1951. 192p. \$2.50.

Six stories in which boys and girls track down and help capture criminals of various types. The writing is mediocre and the characters are unrealistic. Not recommended.

Coombs, Charles I. Young readers stories of the diamond; illus. by Charles H. Geer. Lantern Press, 1951. 194p. \$2.50.

Mediocre collection of short stories about baseball in which the emphasis is on the moral

of the story. The characters are too noble and unrealistic and the writing is mediocre. Not recommended.

Crockett, Lucy Herndon. Pong Choolie, you rascal!; illus. by the author. Holt, 1951. 246p. \$3. Gr.7-9.

Absorbing story of a twelve-year-old South Korean boy whose Communist father has sent him to work for a local Communist inspector in the North Korean city of Hamhung. As Pong Choolie watches the war and even becomes involved in it he begins to form his own ideas about where his loyalties should lie. Pong Choolie is a very realistic character and through his experiences the reader comes to have an understanding of the Korean people and their problems in understanding American ways.

Daringer, Helen Fern. Stepsister Sally; illus. by Garrett Price. Harcourt, 1952. 182p. \$2.25. Gr.5-7. (D11;D37;D123).

Sally Brown was happy when her father remarried and could hardly wait to meet her new family. There was her new mother; three-year-old Robert; Donald, who was a senior in high school; and twelve-year-old Dorothy who was just a year older than Sally. At first Dorothy and Sally were not particularly friendly but in time the problems were all worked out and Sally's family proved as wonderful as she had expected. Some of the minor characters are not too well drawn but young readers will like and sympathize with Sally. Good family relations.

De Leeuw, Adele Louise. Mickey the monkey; by Adele and Cateau De Leeuw; illus. by Robert Henneberger. Little, 1952. 117p. \$2.50. Gr.4-6.

As Tom sat in his room feeling sorry for himself because his classmates were going to the zoo and he was kept at home with a cold, he heard a tapping at the window and there was a small monkey asking to be let in. After the first surprise of a monkey that could talk, Tom allowed himself to be persuaded to leave the house and go with Mickey to the zoo. Once there Mickey got into so much trouble the two had to leave in a hurry and they spent the rest of the day wandering around getting into and out of mischief. A light-hearted fantasy with enough humor and suspense to hold the reader's interest.

Emery, Anne. Sorority girl; illus. by Richard Horwitz. Westminster, 1952. 191p. \$2.50. Gr.7-9. (D37;D53;D134).

Another story of the Burnaby family, this time with Jean playing the star role. Jean begins her junior year in high school determined to make it a year that will count by going out for school activities and by concentrating more seriously on her music. A bid to the Nightingales, a high school sorority, which she accepts over her mother's protests, changes her plans and she soon finds herself in a social whirl that leaves no time for the activities or the friends she really enjoys. Before the year is out Jean has come to a realization of the flaws in sorority life and eventually decides to resign. The decision is not an easy one to make and the author has not lessened Jean's

unhappiness in the process. The characters are well-rounded, the problems are convincing and handled in a realistic manner, and there is a basic warmth and friendliness to Jean's family relations that make good reading.

Enright, W. J. Pat. Sailor Jim's cave; a mystery of buried treasure in Florida; story and pictures by W. J. Pat Enright. Dodd, 1951. 270p. \$2.75.

A story of Florida fifty years ago and of two boys, Pat and Ben, who go there to live with their aunt and uncle. The story moves slowly and there is not enough mystery to hold the reader's interest. Not recommended.

Evers, Alf. Buddy, the little taxi; illus. by Eleanor Corwin. Rand McNally, 1952. 31p. (A book-elf book). \$.25.

Mediocre story of a taxi that lives in the city and longs for the country. Eventually he gets his wish and lives happily ever after. Not recommended.

Fisher, Lois J. Lois and Looie; pictures by Lois Fisher and Karl Murr. Childrens Press, 1951. 25p. \$2.

A confused attempt to show how a TV program is developed. It is possible that children who were well acquainted with the TV show, Lois and Looie, might understand what the book means but to most readers it will be meaningless. Not recommended.

Franklin, George Cory. Mining the Iron Mask; illus. by William Moyers. Ariel, 1952. 204p. \$2.50. Gr.7-9.

Roy Barnett and Frank Mathews, high school graduates, both wanted to go to college and both were determined to earn their own way. By pooling their resources they acquired a pack train of burros and hired out to the Legal Tender Mine to transport timber and copper ore. The project soon expanded and the boys eventually found themselves the owners of a mine that was profitable enough to handle their college expenses and insure them a good living afterwards. This book has the same understanding of forest and mountain life that were to be found in Mr. Franklin's animal stories although the author is not quite as successful in portraying human characters as he is with animals.

Gilbert, Kenneth. Smoke over Skygag; illus. by Clifford N. Gleary. Holt, 1951. 145p. \$2.50.

Fifteen-year-old Mark Landon was excited over his job as a forest lookout partly because of his love for the woods and partly because of the financial help he could give his parents. The job proves to be an exciting one when he tangles with a poacher who sets fire to the forest as revenge when Mark reports him. Improbable situations and unrealistic characters. Not recommended.

Gruelle, Johnny. Raggedy Ann and Marcella's first day at school; illus. by Tom Sinnickson. Wonder Books, 1952. 26p. (Wonder books). \$25.

When Marcella comes home from her first day at school and cannot remember her lesson, Raggedy Ann, with the help of the twin dolls,

comes to the rescue. Slight story and unattractive illustrations. Not recommended.

Hayes, Marjorie. Robin and company; illus. by Adolph Treidler. Little, 1952. 159p. \$2.75. Gr.4-6.

Sequel to Robin on the river. This time Robin and his friends are trying to earn enough money to go to the city to see a real, major league baseball game. In the course of their efforts they meet Jean Morse who becomes a member of Robin and Company even though a bout with polio has left her unable to walk. The attempts to earn money become complicated by the group's search for Jean's dog, Cindy, who has disappeared, and by their desire to find out what Jean's Uncle Alf's mysterious hobby may be. A pleasant story with a slight mystery to add to its interest.

Helm, Ruth H. Gwendolyn; pictures by Madeleine Gekiere. Oxford, 1952. 48p. \$2.

Gwendolyn was an unhappy giraffe living in the city zoo and longing for the acacia trees of Africa. Her life became somewhat brighter when she was hired by Tommy to take over his uncle's job of trimming the city's trees after Uncle Henry fell and broke his arm. Tommy was worried when Gwendolyn found and ate the acacia trees belonging to Mr. Griffin, Uncle Henry's boss, but everything turned out all right for Uncle Henry, Tommy, Mr. Griffin, and Gwendolyn. Distinctive illustrations in black, yellow, and white, done with an economy of line and with telling and lively effect are offset by the story which has some amusing moments but is generally flat. Not recommended.

Hill, Mabel Betsy. The snowed-in family; a Judy Jo story; written and illus. by Mabel Betsy Hill. Lippincott, 1951. 125p. \$2.25. Gr.3-5. (D84;D116).

Another story of Judy Jo and her friends. The plot involves a blizzard and a needy family who took refuge in the village inn which had been closed for the winter. These are not outstanding books but they make pleasant and easy reading for third and fourth grade girls and they have good family and neighbor relationships. This one is especially good for showing how the people of a village join together to help a family that is in trouble.

Hogue, Dock. Bob Clifton, Congo crusader; illus. by Kurt Wiese. Holt, 1951. 152p. \$2.50.

The third in a series of stories of Bob Clifton, son of an American coffee planter in Africa. As so often happens in series books, the plot is becoming thin and the incidents improbable as the author tries to use the same setting and characters but find variety in the actions. Several incidents of sheer sensationalism are introduced to heighten the interest but with little relationship to the plot. Not recommended.

Hurd, Clement. Run, run, run. Harper, 1951. 23p. \$1.25.

When the little dog comes out in the morning he decides it is a good day to chase the cat next door. He chases her until she turns around and begins chasing him. This continues all day but at night they decide to

go home. The manuscript type makes this a book that must be read to children since it is too difficult for beginning readers to handle alone. The style is monotonous and some of the pictures are confusing. Too slight. Not recommended.

Jackson, Caary Paul. Rose Bowl line backer. Crowell, 1951. 184p. \$2.50. Gr.7-9.

There is nothing very new or different about this story of college football. Al Kudef, captain of the Michigan team, enjoys the prestige of his position as tailback but refuses to face the responsibility of his position as captain. Through the efforts of his friends he comes to a gradual acceptance of his responsibilities and manages to inspire his team to the point of winning the Rose Bowl game. The writing is adequate although not outstanding.

Johnston, Eileen. Jamie and the little rubber boat; pictures by Lys Cassal. Harper, 1951. 47p. \$1.25.

When Jamie visits his Uncle Matt's boat-house he decides that the craft he likes best is a small rubber boat that has been neglected because no one likes to go out in her. Jamie defends the boat and during a gale proves her usefulness when he goes out in her alone to rescue a small kitten that has been washed off the dock. A slight and highly improbable story. Not recommended.

Lambert, Janet. Miss America. Dutton, 1951. 189p. \$2.50.

More doings of Tippy Parish and her family. Tippy and her parents are back in the United States after a sojourn in Germany and Tippy is faced with the all-important problem of deciding between Peter Jordan and Ken Prescott, whom she met in Germany. After 189 pages of trying to make up her mind, Tippy is still undecided and the matter is postponed for a later book. As usual with the Lambert books, the characters are unrealistic, the values are false, and the treatment of real problems is too superficial to have any significance. Not recommended.

Lane, Carl Daniel. Black tide; illus. by the author. Little, 1952. 222p. \$2.75.

Another story of the sloop, Altair, and the three boys who own her. This time they are sailing in the Gulf of Mexico where they become involved with a company that is drilling for oil in the Gulf waters and being harassed by a gang of murderers and pirates. The boys, of course, are instrumental in bringing the criminals to justice. The implication that it is permissible to kill a man and destroy valuable property without due recourse to law and law enforcement agencies is not an acceptable idea for children's books. The book is illustrated with drawings designed to teach some of the major points in navigation and in handling a boat. Few readers are likely to stop in the midst of an exciting story to learn to operate a sextant and for those who are seriously interested in navigation the same information is available in other, more usable, forms. Not recommended.

Leavitt, Dorothy. Adventure on the Tennessee. Little, 1952. 195p. \$2.75.

Following the same pattern as Adventure on the Potomac, the author takes the Cabitor family on a summer vacation through Virginia and down the Tennessee River with stops at important places to inspect the work of TVA. The mixture of factual material and story is not successful. The story moves slowly and is often completely stopped by bits from history and physical descriptions of the country through which the family is traveling. The characters are unrealistic and much of their dialog reads like excerpts from an encyclopedia. Not recommended.

McKean, Else. It's mine!; Foreword by Lawrence K. Frank. Vanguard Press, 1951. 33p. \$2. Pre-school.

The problem of possessiveness in very young children is treated in story and illustrations. Although the format is that of a picture book, this is a book for adults rather than for children. There is good material here to help the parent understand the problem of teaching a child to share and the book will have value for home use or parent's collections in libraries.

Malcolmson, Anne (Burnett). Mister Stormalong; by Anne Malcolmson and Dell J. McCormick; illus. by Joshua Tolford. Houghton, 1952. 136p. \$2.25. Gr.5-7.

For the first time the major legends about Alfred Bulltop Stormalong have been gathered together in a complete volume. The result is a rollicking story with all the vigor and humor of a well-told tall tale. An excellent addition to the storyteller's collection; fun for the family's reading aloud sessions; and good reading for the independent reader who has reached the tall tale stage.

Marsh, Gwen. The land of no strangers; illus. by Jean Garside; music and songs by Victoria de Bray. Oxford, 1951. 79p. \$2. Gr.6-8.

A beautifully written, imaginative story of a young boy's search for the treasure which his grandmother has left for him in the Land of No Strangers. David finds the journey long and hard but enjoyable for everywhere he goes there is music and he adds the songs of each country to his store until he is rich in music and folklore. The allegory, that if a person is true to his talent he will find friends among people of like talent no matter where he may go, will probably be too subtle for any except the most imaginative and sensitive of readers. There will be some, however, who will enjoy the book just for the well-told story even though the allegory may not be understood. Beautifully illustrated in peasant designs and colors with the words and music of the songs David learns interspersed with the text. The book would provide an excellent basis for a music festival planned around the folk music and dances of middle European countries. Paper boards with cloth backstrip.

Masters, Robert V. Stampography; an instructive travel album for the young stamp collector; illus. with full-color lithographs

by Howard Simon. Sterling, 1951. 81p. \$3.50.

Revised edition of a book first published in 1945. The book attempts to give an overall view of the history and geography of the world through text, photographs, maps, colored illustrations, and reproductions of stamps. The text is choppy and a hodge-podge of information, much of it outdated. Incorrect grammar, a tone of strong American nationalism, and the use of terms such as "Jap" further weaken the book's usefulness. The reproductions of the stamps are too small and indistinct for use as identification. Not recommended.

Meyer, Jerome Sidney. Picture book of radio and television and how they work; illus. by Richard Floethe. Lothrop, 1951. 40p. \$2. Gr.6-8.

A simplified explanation of how radio and television work. As so often happens when complicated subjects are treated in books for young readers the over-simplifications result in some misconceptions which can give erroneous ideas. The book does have value, however, as supplementary reading in science classes where the over-simplifications can be explained and amplified.

Meyers, Barlow. Tumbleweed. Westminster, 1952. 192p. \$2.50. Gr.7-9.

Tumbleweed, a dun mare, is the prize possession of Rush Jones who had captured her in one of the last of the wild horse drives in Wyoming. When Rush falls asleep at the wheel and wrecks the truck in which he is hauling Tumbleweed, he loses the mare and almost loses his life. Through the aid of Tracy Bender, nearby rancher who saved his life, Rush regains his mare and helps Tracy find a lost stallion. Their efforts to capture the horses and to build up Tracy's ranch are almost ruined by an unscrupulous neighbor but the two are the winners in the end. A hard-hitting story of ranch life that has enough excitement and suspense to hold the reader's interest.

Moore, Ruth. Jeb Ellis of Candlemas Bay; illus. by William N. Wilson. Morrow, 1952. 238p. \$2.50. Gr.8-9.

A young people's edition of a story published as an adult book in 1950. The major changes that have been made are in the tempering of the language (all "hell's" and "damn's" are deleted) and the omission of some fairly mature episodes. The result is a pleasant story that is somewhat choppy in spots because of the deletions but that is still mature in ideas and plot. There is not enough objectionable material in the original volume, and what there is is not sufficiently bad to warrant such a cut version except for much younger readers. Jeb Ellis of Candlemas Bay could be used in junior high schools but for senior high schools the original version, Candlemas Bay, is to be preferred.

Nursery book satchel. Friendship Press, 1951. 4v. illus. \$1.75. Gr.1-3.

Contents: Esa, a little boy of Nazareth; The three camels, a story of India; Ah Fu, a Chinese river boy; and Kembo, a little girl of Africa. Brief stories designed to acquaint children with

the lives of people in other lands. The stories are more suited to church school use than to general library collections. Paper bindings with cloth back strips. The four volumes, each one 5 1/2" x 4", come in a cardboard box shaped like a satchel.

O'Brien, John Sherman. Royal Red; illus. by Kurt Wiese. Winston, 1951. 215p. \$2.50.

Jim Thorne's nephew, Peter, and Silver Chief's grandson, Silver Chief III, are involved in this story of the Canadian Mounted Police, the horse, Royal Red, and Indian troubles in the Fraser Valley. An exciting story but the plot is poorly developed and the writing is not only mediocre but often grammatically incorrect. Not recommended.

Oursler, Fulton. A child's life of Jesus; pictures by Elinore Blaisdell. Watts, 1951. 40p. \$1.75. K-Gr.3.

Simplified version of the story of Jesus from his birth through his resurrection. The style is suitable for reading aloud and could be handled by fairly good third grade readers. Illustrations are traditional rather than realistic. Available in Protestant and Catholic editions, the only difference between the two being in the text of the Lord's Prayer.

Payne, Stephen. Young readers stories of the West; illus. by Charles H. Geer. Lantern Press, 1951. 192p. \$2.50.

A mediocre collection of cowboy stories with the emphasis on "winning his spurs". There is a sameness about the plots that makes the stories monotonous. The characters and incidents are unrealistic. Not recommended.

Preston, Hall. Snoop waits for dinner; by Hall Preston and Catherine Barr. Oxford, 1952. 30p. \$1.75.

Mild and pointless story of Snoop, a cat, who watches two chipmunks move to a new home but is thwarted in his attempt to catch them when they go out the back instead of the front door. The two-color illustrations depict the chipmunks in coy antics, looking more like kittens or bears than chipmunks. Not recommended.

Reynolds, Dickson, pseud. Angry river; decorations by Clifford Geary. Nelson, 1951. 181p. \$2. Gr.7-9. (D116).

An exciting and dramatic account of a flood in the Pacific Northwest. Eighteen-year-old Don Fairly lived well above the flood waters but he and his mother shared in the fight to save the dikes and care for the people whose homes had been flooded. A slight mystery is dragged in but the real value of the book is in the story of how the people of a region unite to fight the river and how the flood affects them all.

Roberts, Eleanor. Once upon a summertime; original music by Jeanne A'Dair. Exposition Press, 1951. 139p. \$3.

Highly contrived stories of a boy and a girl who fall asleep on the beach and dream they go to the land of the grunions. The book is designed to teach the "principles of good government, justice, and the dignity of the

individual". These points may be in the story but they are completely hidden in the fantasy. Not recommended.

Saintsbury, Dana. The squirrel that remembered; written and illus. by Dana Saintsbury. Viking, 1951. 63p. \$2.

Pleasant but unimportant story of a grey squirrel living in Central Park. Unlike most squirrels, Grandma Nutcracker could not only remember where she buried her store of nuts, but she could also remember details about her early life in London and the trip across the ocean when she came to live in New York. The story is too cluttered with Grandma's reminiscences and a human love affair to have much meaning or appeal for young readers. Not recommended.

Smith, Cicely Fox. Knave-go-by; the adventures of Jacky Nameless; illus. by Ian Ribbons. Oxford, 1952. 187p. \$2. Gr.7-9.

A stirring account of life in 19th Century England and a thirteen-year-old boy's attempt to establish his identity. Jacky Nameless, as he is known through most of the story, was shipwrecked on the southern coast of England and, when he recovered from the injuries sustained at the time, could not remember his name or where he was from. He wanders over England in the company of a group of travelling showmen and has many adventures before finding and winning his inheritance. The story is told in the first person and does not always move smoothly but there is action and suspense enough to hold the reader's interest.

Steele, William O. Buffalo knife; illus. by Paul Galdone. Harcourt, 1952. 177p. \$2.25. Gr.4-6.

Nine-year-old Andrew Clark was excited at the prospect of travelling from his home in Tennessee to the French Salt Lick settlement in Kentucky although he would have preferred to go overland with his uncle than by flatboat with the family. However, the thousand mile trip proved as eventful and exciting as any boy could ask and even more than Andy wanted at times. A vigorous story of frontier life in 1782.

Stephen, David. String Lug the fox; illus. by Nina Scott Langley. Little, 1952. 174p. \$2.75. Gr.9-12.

String Lug is a dog fox living by his wits in the hills of Scotland. The account of his life from birth to maturity is told in complete detail. It is, in fact, almost a meal by meal account of his first two years of life. The story moves slowly and is further hampered by the excessive use of Scottish terms. These are defined in a glossary at the end of the book but not many readers will want to bother stopping every few sentences to look up a word. The information about the fox and about the ways of life of men and animals in the Scottish highlands is good but will be read by those readers only who are not dismayed by the slow and difficult style and the small print.

Syme, Ronald. Champlain of the St. Lawrence; illus. by William Stobbs. Morrow, 1952. 189p. \$2.50. Gr.6-8.

Another well-written biography by the

author of Bay of the north and Cortes of Mexico. The story takes Champlain from his boyhood in the French town of Brouage to his death in Quebec. The emphasis is on Champlain's founding of Quebec and his efforts to establish permanent colonies in Canada although the importance of his explorations is not minimized. The style is somewhat simpler than that of the two earlier books and the book can be read at a younger level. The tone is mature enough that the book could be used as remedial material at the high school level.

Thomas, Gertrude. Land o'Nod; the story of Denny's adventures; illus. by Theodora Brown. Exposition Press, 1951. 106p. \$2.50.
Trite plot in which a small boy finishes his Mother Goose tales before going to bed at night and then dreams he is in make-believe land. Dull style. Not recommended.

Tooze, Ruth. Tim and the brass buttons; illus. by Zhenya Gay. Messner, 1951. 63p. (Every-day adventure stories). \$1.50. Gr.1-2.
An easy reading book written for the purpose of teaching safety rules. Tim admires the brass buttons on the policeman's uniform worn by his friend, Mike, the corner traffic cop. He learns that brass buttons are earned by a watchful eye, a strong arm, and a kind heart. The text is easy enough for second grade and some advanced first grade readers to handle alone. The story is too contrived to have much interest for general reading although the book will have value for safety units.

Waldman, Frank. Delayed steal; illus. by Vincent Sullivan. Houghton, 1952. 150p. \$2. Gr.7-9.
A story of major league baseball built around the conflict between Billy Tyler, rookie, and his father, "Maje" Tyler, manager of the New York Yankees. Billy not only has the trouble with his father to settle, but he finds that he has to learn to control his own temper before he can gain success. Billy is a fairly well-developed character but his father is completely unrealistic. The descriptions of the games are good and, since they comprise the major part of the book, compensate for the poorly developed characters.

Weber, Alma B. Coonskin for a general; stories of great American cities; by Alma B. Weber et al.; illus. by Kurt Werth. Aladdin, 1951. 313p. \$3. Gr.4-6.
Nineteen stories, each one based on an incident in the development of an important American city. The writing is uneven but, in the main, acceptable and the overall effect of the book is a good picture of how cities grow. The cities included are: Cincinnati; Hudson, New York; Dallas; Detroit; Denver; Boston; New Orleans; Chicago; Philadelphia; St. Paul; St. Anthony, (Minneapolis); Redlands; Pittsburgh; San Francisco; Atlanta; New York; Richmond; Nashville; Topeka; Ogden.

Wilde, George. The puppy who found a boy; story and pictures by George and Irma Wilde. Wonder Books, 1952. 26p. (Wonder books) \$.25.
A black cocker pup goes all over town and out into the country looking for a boy to play with. Coy and trite. Not recommended.

Instructional Materials, Supplementary Reading and Sources of Materials

The materials listed here are not available from the Center for Children's Books. Orders should be sent to the publishers of the individual items.

"Books for young people" Branch Library Book News, January 1952. New York Public Library. \$.25.

Letton, Mildred C. and Ries, Adele M. Clubs are fun. Junior Life Adjustment Booklet, Science Research Associates, 57 West Grand Avenue, Chicago 10, Illinois, 1952. \$.40.
Practical ideas and suggestions for organizing and running clubs.

Logan, J. E. "Teaching literature to the illiterates" Clearing House 26:306-08 Ja'52.

Logasa, Hannah. Historical fiction and other reading references for classes in junior and senior high schools. 5th ed, rev. and enl. McKinley, 1951. 280p. \$4.

160 titles have been omitted and 560 have been added. A new section "Historical Relationships" has been added to the Appendix. The titles in this section serve to suggest the cultural, ideological, geographic, scientific, and sociological factors that have a direct or indirect bearing on historical events. Titles in the main body of the material are grouped in two sections: (1) Stories; (2) Biography, Narrative, Period Account. Books are intended for junior and senior high school use. Books at the junior high level are indicated by a dagger symbol. A useful book for libraries and classrooms.

Lyness, Paul I. "Patterns in the mass communications tastes of the young audience" Journal of Educational Psychology 42: 449-467, D'51.
Report on a study made in the 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th, and 11th grades of Des Moines, Iowa schools.

Michaelis, John U. and Tyler, Fred T. "A comparison of reading ability and readability" Journal of Educational Psychology 42: 491-498, D'51.
A study based on the Lorge, Flesch, and Dale-Chall readability formulae.

Strang, Ruth May. Gateways to readable books: An annotated graded list of books in many fields for adolescents who find reading difficult; by Ruth Strang, Christine B. Gilbert, and Margaret C. Scoggin. 2d. ed. Wilson, 1952. 148p. \$2.75.
Over 400 titles have been added to the 2d. edition to cover about 30 different subject subdivisions. The same general arrangement is followed, with the estimated level of difficulty of each book noted in parentheses after the title, and brief annotations that are simply written so that they may be used by the pupils themselves. The majority of the books are for 5-7 grade level of difficulty. A few have a lower difficulty level and all of the books have a high interest level. A useful tool for libraries and remedial reading classes.

Mr. Lester Asheim
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